

REMARKS

The present Response is in reply to the Office Action mailed October 20, 2005 ("October Office Action"). In the October Office Action, the Examiner contended that the replies filed on 02-02-04 (dated January 28, 2004) and 02-27-04 (dated February 24, 2004) are not fully responsive to the prior office action. This response by the Examiner is respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicants note that the Office Action mailed February 12, 2004 was in the form of a "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment" in which the sole deficiency noted was indicated as 4 A. "A complete listing of all of the claims is not present." Applicants responded with a "Communication" dated February 24, 2004 which submitted a full listing of all of the claims. Then, eight months later, the Examiner mailed the October Office Action contending that the January 28, 2004 and February 24, 2004 replies were not fully responsive to the "prior Office Action" (Applicants assume this to be the Office Action mailed October 28, 2003) because:

...the reply does not provide arguments with respect to either Heinecke or Faasse in either 103 rejection with regards to structure or motivation to provide 3 release liners.

In response, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Amendment and Response filed on January 28, 2004 in which Applicants made the following request of the Examiner regarding the October 28, 2003 Office Action (see page 11):

...Applicants ask that the Examiner please provide the particular text of Muchin that discloses it was known to apply the central portion of the dilator first before the lateral side portions. In review of Muchin, it appears Muchin discloses only that the dilator adheres to the skin of the nose, and is silent as to which portions of the dilator are applied first. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Examiner's basis for this rejection is flawed.

Applicants maintain that the Examiner's rejection is flawed, and thus are unable to respond further to a combination rejection including Muchin, Heinecke and Faasse without fully

understanding the Examiner's position. In particular, Applicants requested that the Examiner provide support in the text of Muchin that provides the basis for the Examiner's argument. The Examiner has not done this, and thus Applicants respectfully repeat their request. Moreover, even if the Examiner could provide such textual support in Muchin, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the nasal support art of Muchin with the bandage/wound dressing art of Heinecke or Faasse as argued by the Examiner.

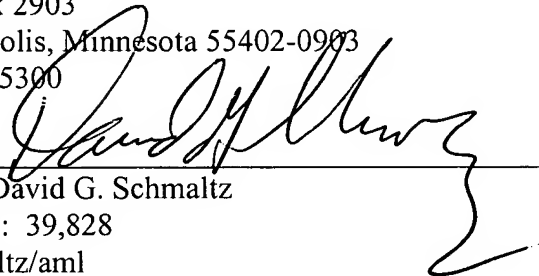
The Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney at 612.336.4617 with any questions or concerns.



Dated: March 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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Signed: 
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